

# **STRONG FAMILIES / SAFE CHILDREN**

**FISCAL YEAR 2000**

## **LOCAL SERVICES OUTCOMES: EVALUATION REPORT**

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



Family  
Independence  
Agency

## BACKGROUND

**Strong Families/Safe Children (SF/SC)** is Michigan's implementation of the federal "Family Preservation and Family Support Services" program (Public Law 103-66) reauthorized under the "Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997" (Public Law 105-89). The program is an amendment to the Social Security Act as a new subpart, Title IV-B, subpart 2, ratified under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993.

SF/SC funding is intended to foster consumer, community and intergovernmental collaborative partnerships that develop and/or expand direct services to children and families. Further, services are designed to:

- keep children safe in their own homes (when appropriate);
- promote family strength and stability;
- enhance parental functioning;
- prevent the separation of families (when appropriate); and
- provide permanency for children.

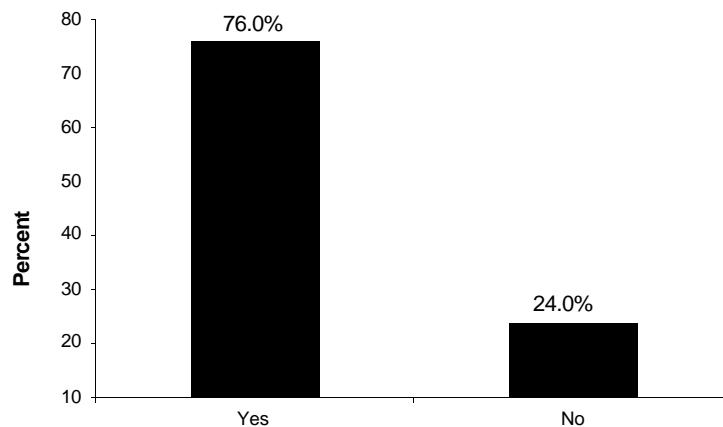
## FISCAL YEAR 2000

Statewide, Strong Families/Safe Children programming served **133,894<sup>1</sup>** customers in FY 2000. There are 80 Family Coordinating Councils (FCC) composed of all 83 Michigan counties (Lake, Mason and Oceana counties combine allocations and Charlevoix and Emmet counties do the same). Allocations by county are given in Appendix A.

For this report, 47 of the 80 FCCs were sampled for numerical service outcomes; of this 47, 36 had one or more program(s) reporting numerical outcomes. In all, 229 individual outcomes were collected from 104 different services (refer to Appendix B for a list of FCCs included in the data).

## OUTCOMES

- 76% of the reported outcomes met the intended goal of the particular service (Figure 1). The local programs established these service goals as benchmarks to measure numerical outcomes.
- For those successful outcomes, 76.1% had a success rate of 85% or higher; 41.8% of these successful outcomes had a success rate of 100%.

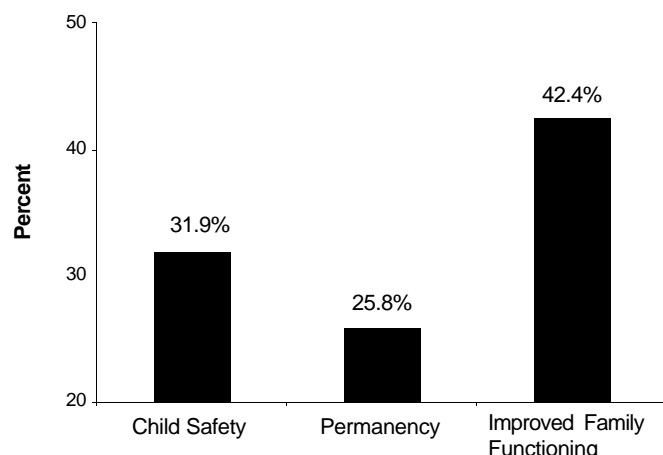


**FIGURE 1:** Percent of successful and not successful outcomes in meeting desired service goals

<sup>1</sup>As reported by each local collaborative, this number reflects customers served through information and referral services, as well as long-term programming; further, customers could receive more than one service through SF/SC funding.

## FEDERAL PROGRAM GOALS

The “Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997” (PL 105-89) identified the overall federal program goals of child safety, permanency, and improved family functioning. Each SF/SC funded program was classified into one of these three categories based on the service description, service category (family support, family preservation, reunification, or adoption promotion and support), and the target population. Definitions for each federal program goal are as follows<sup>2</sup>:



**FIGURE 2:** Percent distribution of program identities for federal goals

- **Child Safety** – Children are safe in their own homes. The focus of measurable change toward achieving child safety can be the child, the parent(s), or the family.
- **Permanency** – Family continuity, preservation, reunification, or alternate permanency plan. Children will reside safely in their own homes; when they cannot, they will maintain stable, permanent family and/or kinship ties. The focus of measurable change towards achieving permanency can be the child, parent(s), or family.
- **Improved Family Functioning** – Parenting roles and skills are positively strengthened and supported. Child developmental needs

are met, as well as fostering development of both social and cultural identities. Behavioral, emotional, and health needs are improved. Family relations (child-to-child and child-to-adult interactions) are improved. The focus of measurable change towards achieving improved family functioning can be the child, parent(s), or family.

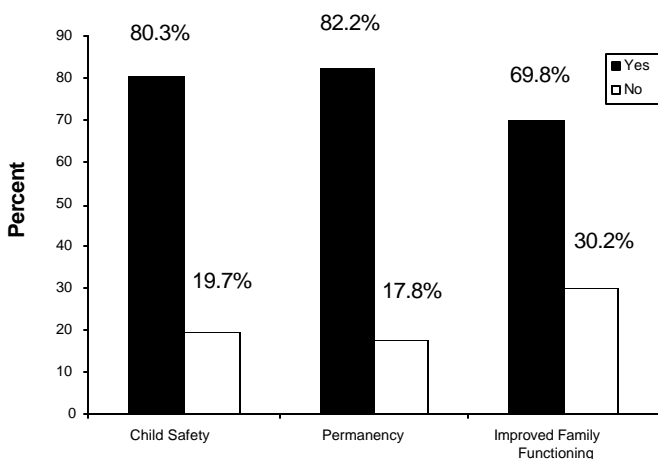
For FY 2000, FIA used these federal program goals and definitions to determine if services were meeting expectations. The results are overwhelmingly positive.

- 42.4% of the services were classified as Improving Family Functioning; 31.9% and 25.8% of the services were classified as promoting Child Safety and working toward Permanency respectively (Figure 2).
- The percentage of success for these services is excellent. 80.3% of Child Safety programs met their intended outcomes, while 82.2% of Permanency and 69.8% of Family Functioning programs met their intended outcomes (Figure 3).

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<sup>2</sup>Definitions are taken from: American Humane Association and National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, an affiliate of the American Public Welfare Association. (1996). Matrices of indicators prepared for the Fourth Annual Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare. In American Humane Association (1996) *Fourth National Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services: Summary of proceedings*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association.

- 84.9% of Child Safety programs had an 80% or above success rate for outcomes; 41.1% of the Child Safety programs had outcomes with a success rate of 100%.
- 79% of Permanency programs had outcomes with a success rate of 80% or above. 36.8% of the permanency outcomes had a success rate of 100%.
- For Family Functioning programs, the percentages are slightly smaller, but still very good; 61.6% of programs had a success rate at 80% or higher; 19.1% of the family functioning programs had outcomes with a success rate of 100%.



**FIGURE 3:** Percent successful and not successful by federal program identity

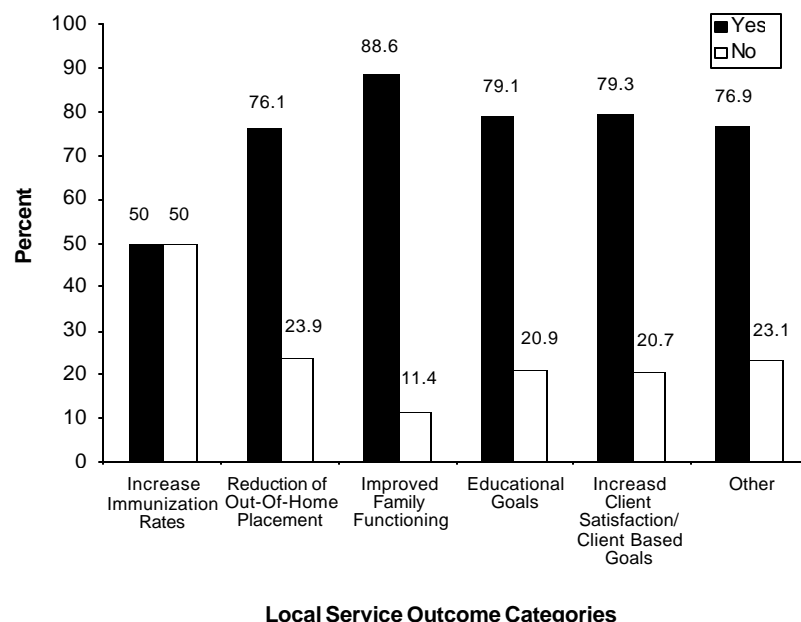
## LOCAL SERVICE OUTCOME CATEGORIES

Each local service goal was classified in terms of a stated intended outcome. After the data was entered and analysis began, each service goal was placed in broad categories to synthesize the data. These categories were established as a means to classify the range of data in order to compare service outcomes. The following are definitions of the categories included in the data with each category's percentage of the total number of local service outcomes (n = 229).

- **Reduction in Out-of-Home Placements** (23.1%) – Local service outcomes focused on families at risk of losing children, which aim to reduce Child Protective Services referrals and to keep families together.
- **Improved Family Functioning** (17.0%) – Local service outcomes to reduce risk factors; to increase well-being of parents and infants at birth; to reduce teen pregnancy rates.
- **Educational goals** (21.4%) – Local service outcomes to raise parental awareness on childhood issues; increase parenting skills; to provide parent support and education; and to help children and adolescents remain in school and aid academic achievement.
- **Increase Immunization Rates** (11.8%) – Local service outcomes to measure improved family functioning to support childhood immunization.
- **Increased Client Satisfaction and Client based goals** (18.8%) – Local service outcomes focused on client-centered programming and work towards achieving high levels of client satisfaction.
- **Other outcomes** (7.9%) – Local service outcomes that include the expansion of service delivery and increasing collaborative efforts.

Figure 4 shows the percentage in each local service outcome category that has met the intended outcome as compared to the percentage that has not met their intended outcome.

- 81.1% of outcomes to reduce out-of-home placements had a success rate at or above 80%, while 28.3% had a success rate of 100%.



**FIGURE 4:** Percentage of program goals meeting and not meeting intended program outcomes

- 69.2% of outcomes aimed at improved family functioning had a success rate of 80% or higher and 33.3% had a success rate of 100%.
- 67.3% of outcomes to address educational goals had a success rate of 80% or higher, while 22.4% had a success rate of 100%.
- 71.5% of outcomes intended to increase client satisfaction and address client based goals had a success rate at 80% or higher, while 40.5% had a success rate of 100%.

- 71.4% of intended outcomes focusing on service expansion and improvements had a success rate at 80% or above and 64.3% had a success rate of 100%.

Excluding Increased Immunization Rates, no category has a success level lower than 76%<sup>3</sup>. Though only 50% of outcomes intended to raise immunization rates actually met their outcome, 81.4% of immunization programs have a success rate at 80% or above and 14.8% of the programs have a success rate of 100%.

## CONCLUSION

This evaluation outlines the success of Strong Families/Safe Children programming in ensuring child safety, achieving permanency, and positively improving family functioning. Strong Families/Safe Children services have demonstrated overwhelming success at meeting intended local service outcomes. SF/SC services have also had great success at meeting primary program goals as defined by the Federal Government.

<sup>3</sup>The number of programs that did meet outcomes is low for Increased Immunization Rates because, often, programs set very high goals (95-100% immunization rate). These programs “missed” their intended outcome by only 5% or less.

## APPENDIX A – LISTING OF FAMILY COLLABORATIVE COUNCILS WITH FY 2000 COUNTY ALLOCATIONS

Alcona	\$107,500	Lake <sup>②</sup>	\$114,800
Alger	\$104,900	Mason <sup>②</sup>	\$122,700
Allegan	\$145,600	Oceana <sup>②</sup>	\$133,700
Alpena	\$124,600	Lapeer	\$132,500
Antrim	\$111,300	Leelanau	\$107,000
Arenac	\$117,300	Lenawee	\$152,800
Baraga	\$108,300	Livingston	\$126,400
Barry	\$126,100	Luce	\$107,300
Bay	\$199,300	Mackinac	\$106,200
Benzie	\$107,600	Macomb	\$329,900
Berrien	\$285,800	Manistee	\$121,500
Branch	\$129,100	Marquette	\$135,200
Calhoun	\$242,700	Mecosta	\$130,800
Cass	\$141,300	Menominee	\$112,200
Charlevoix <sup>①</sup>	\$112,300	Midland	\$152,100
Emmet <sup>①</sup>	\$112,800	Missaukee	\$111,800
Cheboygan	\$120,400	Monroe	\$176,500
Chippewa	\$125,700	Montcalm	\$146,700
Clare	\$138,800	Montmorency	\$108,900
Clinton	\$121,700	Muskegon	\$291,500
Crawford	\$113,700	Newaygo	\$135,900
Delta	\$128,900	Oakland	\$516,000
Dickinson	\$111,200	Ogemaw	\$125,500
Eaton	\$139,300	Ontonagon	\$105,300
Genesee	\$735,000	Osceola	\$121,300
Gladwin	\$125,700	Oscoda	\$109,100
Gogebic	\$113,200	Otsego	\$109,900
Grand Traverse	\$124,200	Ottawa	\$156,300
Gratiot	\$129,900	Presque Isle	\$109,500
Hillsdale	\$125,800	Roscommon	\$123,300
Houghton	\$126,300	Saginaw	\$403,500
Huron	\$125,200	St. Clair	\$199,900
Ingham	\$351,200	St. Joseph	\$135,100
Ionia	\$136,200	Sanilac	\$132,500
Iosco	\$120,800	Schoolcraft	\$109,100
Iron	\$107,900	Shiawassee	\$146,500
Isabella	\$137,800	Tuscola	\$142,300
Jackson	\$229,500	Van Buren	\$184,300
Kalamazoo	\$264,900	Washtenaw	\$219,900
Kalkaska	\$111,300	Wayne	\$3,682,000
Kent	\$426,900	Wexford	\$126,200
Keweenaw	\$100,900		

<sup>①</sup> Combined funds for Dual-County Collaboration

<sup>②</sup> Combined funds for Tri-County Collaboration

**APPENDIX B – LISTING OF FAMILY COORDINATING COUNCILS INCLUDED  
IN FY 2000 OUTCOME DATA**

Alger	Isabella
Allegan	Kalkaska
Alpena	Kent
Antrim	Lake/Mason/Oceana
Bay	Livingston
Berrien	Luce
Charlevoix/Emmet	Marquette
Cheboygan	Mecosta
Delta	Menominee
Dickinson	Montcalm
Gogebic	Newaygo
Grand Traverse	Oakland
Gratiot	St. Joseph
Hillsdale	Sanilac
Huron	Schoolcraft
Ingham	Van Buren
Iron	Washtenaw

Quantity: 600  
Cost: \$514.84 (.8580 ea.)  
Authority: FIA Director

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